

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Johnson during the October 18, 2005 personal interview, are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Popp (U.S. Patent No. 5,433,950) in view of Ninane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,154,909); claims 1 and 4-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,215,769); and claims 1 and 4-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DE 881190 (DE). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an evaporative crystallization process to make salt compositions wherein a crystal growth inhibitor is less than 50,000 mg per kg of mother liquor, to form a high purity salt with a crystal growth inhibitor wherein the potassium and/or bromium and/or sulfate and/or calcium content is at least 5% lower than in salt crystallized from the same mother liquor but without using a crystal growth inhibitor, as recited in independent claim 1.

As also agreed during the personal interview, support for the recitation of "at least 5% lower" can be found in the specification at, for example, page 2, line 26 - page 3, line 5. In other words, the difference between the impurity content in the mother liquor without a crystal growth inhibitor and the impurity content in the mother liquor with the crystal growth inhibitor is greater than 5%, and the mother liquor that does contain the crystal growth inhibitor has the lower impurity content.

For at least the reasons above, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. As such, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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